



Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

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October 23, 2007

The Honourable P. Myron Kowalsky
Speaker
Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly
129 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3

Dear Mr. Speaker:

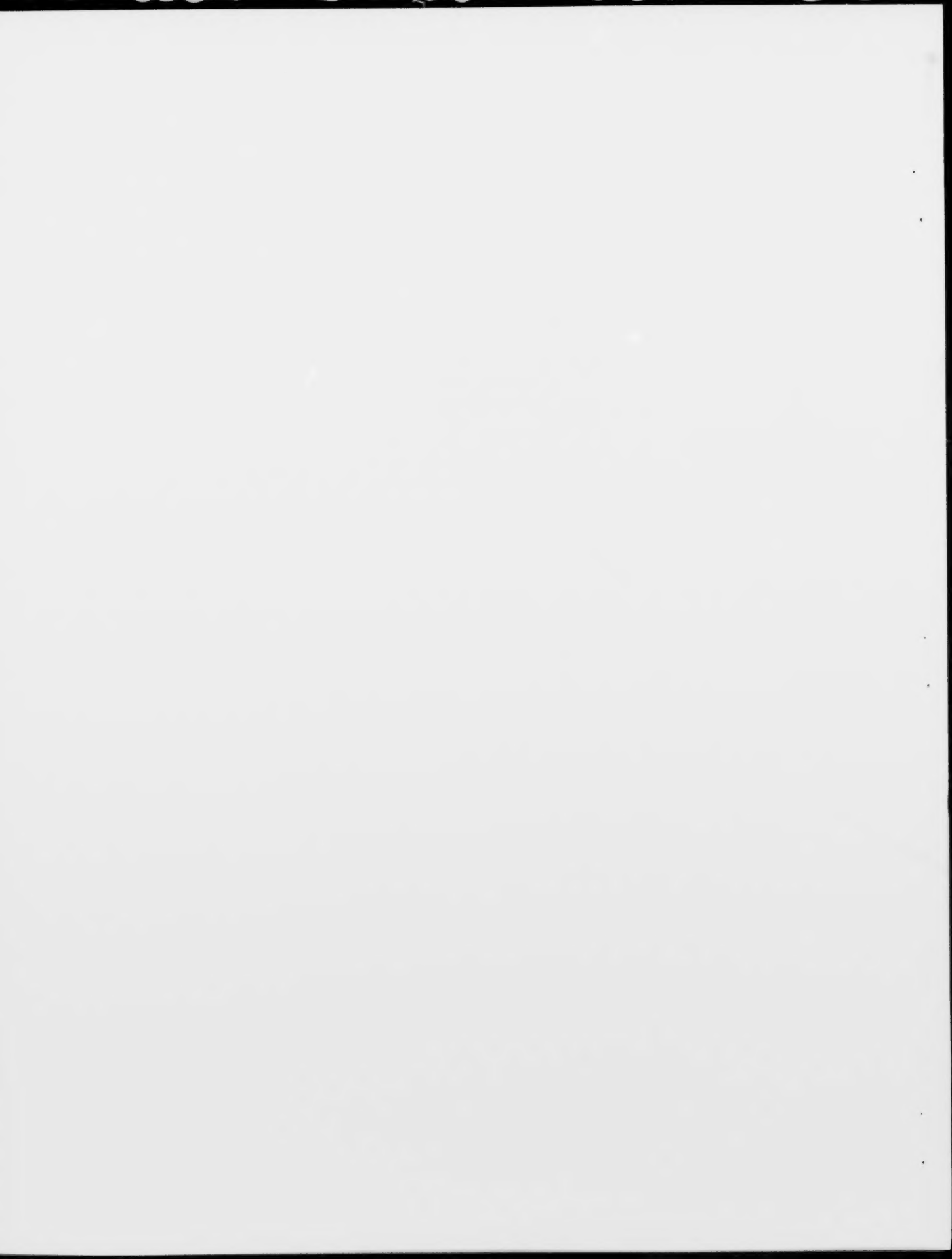
It is my honour to transmit to you for Tabling in the Legislative Assembly, the Sixth Annual Report of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (2007).

I want to thank you and all Members of the Legislative Assembly for your support of this very important program. I also want to thank the Members who worked with the Interns and assisted in this learning experience.

Sincerely,

Ken Pontikes
Director
Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

KP/ml





Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

2007 Annual Report



2007 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns

Left to right: Jonathan Selnes, Lucilia Pereira, Justine Gilbert, Jarita Greyeyes, Kiley Frantik

2007 Highlights

- The number of interns increased from four to five, with the selection of the first Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern.
- A community-service component was introduced to provide interns with an opportunity to observe the work and importance of community-based organizations. The 2007 interns provided volunteer assistance at the Regina Food Bank and the Regina Good Food Box.
- Opportunities for the interns to observe the work of Cabinet ministers and ministerial staff were expanded.
- The international portion of the comparative study tour was broadened to include a visit to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.
- An alumni newsletter was published for the first time, in order to maintain contact with former interns.
- Partnership arrangements were recognized between SLIP and the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy, the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association, and Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority.
- SLIP's website was revamped to provide more information about the Program, as well as highlight the activities of the interns.
- The University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan formalized their involvement in and support for SLIP through a memorandum of understanding.

Introduction

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program (SLIP) completed its sixth year in 2007. For the first time, the Program accommodated five interns. An additional internship, the Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern, was introduced as a result of a two-year financial contribution, totaling \$40,000, from Rawlco Radio.

Five interns and future leaders of our province were able to experience the day-to-day work of ten members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. As well, they gained a greater understanding of and appreciation for our democratic system, how people are governed, and the contributions made and challenges faced by our elected representatives.

Our 2007 Legislative Interns

Applications for 2007 internships were accepted from university students and recent graduates who identified Saskatchewan as their permanent residence. Fifteen applications, of which three came from self-declared Aboriginal applicants, were received and reviewed by the SLIP Selection Committee.

The applications were considered in two processes. Four interns were selected following interviews which occurred in July 2006. The Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern was selected through a separate process which occurred in November 2006. The Rawlco internship was not announced early enough for appropriate promotion for the spring intake of applications. Therefore, a separate promotion of the Rawlco internship was directed to potential First Nations and Métis applicants during the fall of 2006.

The members of the SLIP Selection Committee were:

- John Brockelbank (former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan) in July and November 2006
- Haley Gagnon (former legislative intern) in November 2006
- Joyce Green (representative of the University of Regina) in July 2006
- Stewart Low (former legislative intern) in July 2006
- Ken Pontikes (Director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program) in July and November 2006
- Jeremy Rayner (representative of the University of Regina) in November 2006
- Gwenn Ronyk (Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan) in July of 2006
- Don Story (representative of the University of Saskatchewan) in July and November 2006
- Arnold Tusa (former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan) in July and November 2006

As a result of this committee's deliberations, five interns were selected to participate in the 2007 program. The 2007 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns were:

- Kiley Frantik, B. A. (Honours, Political Studies), M. A. candidate, University of Saskatchewan
- Justine Gilbert, Fourth-year student (Economics and Political Science [double major] and Asian Studies and Leadership and Dialogue [double minor], University of Regina
- Jarita Greyeyes, B. A. (Psychology major, Politics minor), University of Winnipeg
- Lucilia (Lucy) Pereira, B. A. (High Honours, Political Studies), M. A. candidate, University of Saskatchewan
- Jonathan Selnes, B. A. (Political Science major, History minor), University of Calgary

Jarita Greyeyes was selected as the first Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern.

Biographies of each intern have been attached to this report as Appendix A.



2007 Saskatchewan Legislative Interns meet, in Regina, with the Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and Patron of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program

Our 2007 Legislative Mentors

The success of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program depends on the active participation by private members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. In 2007, ten members of the Assembly – five from the government caucus and five from the opposition caucus – agreed to serve as mentors to this year's interns. The members of the Legislative Assembly and their assigned interns were as follows:

<u>Intern</u>	<u>First Term</u>	<u>Second Term</u>
Kiley Frantik	Sandra Morin (Government) Regina Walsh Acres	Don Toth (Opposition) Moosomin
Justine Gilbert	Elwin Hermanson (Opposition) Rosetown-Elrose	Joanne Crofford (Government) Regina Rosemont
Jarita Greyeyes	Andy Iwanchuk (Government) Saskatoon Fairview	Denis Allchurch (Opposition) Rosthern-Shellbrook
Lucilia Pereira	Dustin Duncan (Opposition) Weyburn-Big Muddy	Judy Junor (Government) Saskatoon Eastview
Jonathan Selnes	Glen Hart (Opposition) Last Mountain-Touchwood	Doreen Hamilton (Government) Regina Wascana Plains

The members of the Legislative Assembly assigned a wide range of activities and responsibilities to the interns. There were also opportunities for individual interns to participate in meetings, interact with constituents, and undertake research in public-policy areas of current concern and interest to their member.

For several members of the Assembly, the 2007 Program is not the first time that they have volunteered to mentor a Saskatchewan Legislative Intern. For example, Doreen Hamilton of the Government caucus has served as a mentor during four of the Program's six years. Since 2002, Graham Addley, Andy Iwanchuk, and Sandra Morin from the Government caucus and June Draude and Glen Hart of the Opposition caucus have provided mentorship during three years of the Program. Since its inception, thirty-four members of the Legislative Assembly have volunteered at least once to serve as mentors to SLIP.

The 2007 Program

Orientation Component

The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly organized orientation meetings for the interns. Most of these meetings occurred during the first two weeks of their internship. The orientation component of the Program included meetings with Mr. Speaker, staff and officers of the Legislative Assembly, representatives of government and opposition caucuses, and representatives of the news media and of central agencies in executive government. (See Appendix C.)

As part of the orientation, a welcoming reception was held for the interns on January 15, 2007. Individuals involved in the orientation presentations, MLAs, and sponsors were invited to meet the interns. This reception was sponsored by the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy.

Core Component

The interns began their assignments with five members of the Legislative Assembly (two from the government caucus and three from the opposition caucus) on January 22, 2007. These assignments continued until April 13, 2007. The interns were then reassigned to five members from the other side of the House (two from the opposition caucus and three from the government caucus). These second-term assignments concluded on July 6, 2007.

During their assignment to private members, interns were given opportunities to accompany their assigned members to meetings, conferences, and consultations. The interns also visited constituency offices and experienced the work that MLAs do to address the concerns and interests of their constituents. All expenses incurred by the interns in participating in these events and activities were paid by the Program.

The interns had several opportunities to attend meetings of the Public Accounts Committee and the Standing Committee on Human Services of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. Depending on the responsibilities and interests of their assigned MLA, several interns were able to provide research assistance to support the committees' work, as well as observe presentations during the public hearings held by several committees (e.g. presentations to the Standing Committee on the Economy concerning the "state of internal trade in Saskatchewan").

In 2006, two interns were provided with an opportunity to visit and observe the activities within the offices of Cabinet Ministers. This opportunity was expanded in 2007. Four of the five interns spent a day in the offices of the following ministers:

Deputy Premier (Kiley Frantik)
Minister of Environment (Jonathan Selnes)
Minister of Finance (Justine Gilbert)
Minister of Labour (Kiley Frantik)
Minister of Learning (Lucilia Pereira)
Minister of Industry and Resources (Jonathan Selnes)

We would like to thank Sandra Morin, MLA Regina Walsh Acres, for making the arrangements for the interns to visit these offices.

Academic Component

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program provides the interns with six-credits towards an undergraduate degree, through its recognition as a course at the University of Saskatchewan (Political Studies 382.6) and at the University of Regina (Political Science 480). Interns are required to enroll in one of these courses in order to participate in the program. In addition to the course credits, enrolment in these courses provides each intern with student benefits – such as liability insurance, Workers' Compensation coverage, and health benefits.

At the end of the internship, each intern received a grade which recognized his or her participation in the Program. Each intern's final grade was determined by the director, based on the following weighting:

- 75% for a research paper prepared, individually, by each intern and on a topic pertaining to legislative processes, public policy, politics or public administration;
- 15% for a joint report prepared on the five interns' observations and experience during their travel, under the Program's intern development component, to Ottawa, London (England), and Edinburgh (Scotland); and
- 10% for each intern's completion of administrative duties, assigned annually by the director and pertaining to the Program's core and intern-development operations.

The titles of the research papers prepared by the 2007 interns are as follows:

Kiley Frantik:	The Murdoch Carriere Case: Implications for Anti-harassment Policy in Saskatchewan
Justine Gilbert:	The Parliamentary Anomaly: The Role of the Public Accounts Committee
Jarita Greyeyes:	Aboriginal Political Participation and Relations within Saskatchewan
Lucilia Pereira:	Public Servant Accountability in Saskatchewan
Jonathan Selnes:	The Sask Party and the TILMA [Trade, Investment, and Labour Mobility Agreement]

Copies of these papers have been filed with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

Intern Development Component

The intern development component is undertaken through a special fund ("intern development fund"), which is supported by university, corporate, and organizational sponsors, as well as donations from individuals. The fund is managed through the University of Saskatchewan.

The intern development fund is used to support special projects that are identified by the interns to enhance their experience in the Program. These projects include transportation and accommodation costs related to the interns' travel to other jurisdictions, as well as attendance at workshops, conferences, meetings, and consultations with major organizations and with people in leadership positions from various sectors of Saskatchewan. The interns are responsible for arranging all of the logistical arrangements associated with these projects.

An important element of the Program's intern development component involves the interns' study tour to other jurisdictions. The purpose of the tour is to allow the interns to compare legislative and government processes to what they have observed and experienced in Saskatchewan. The tour is organized by the interns and is funded through the intern development fund and through additional fund-raising undertaken by the interns.

In 2007, the intern development fund covered the cost of the interns' travel to Ottawa and to London (England). Further fund-raising by the interns and through financial support provided by students' organizations allowed the interns to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland. The interns have filed a report on their tour, a portion of which is attached to this annual report as Appendix E.



The Nellie McClung and Irene Parlby Portion of the Famous Five Statue in Ottawa

The interns also used the intern development fund to cover the costs of attending, as observers, several conventions, conferences and events dealing with politics, public policy, and other current issues facing Saskatchewan. During 2007, all or some of the SLIP interns attended the following conventions, conferences, and events:

- Conference, Canadian Political Science Association (Saskatoon)
- Conference, Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (Regina)
- Convention, Liberal Party of Saskatchewan (Moose Jaw)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (Saskatoon)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Party (Regina)
- Convention, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (Saskatoon)
- Annual Meeting, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Saskatchewan Branch (Regina)
- Lieutenant Governor's Arts Awards (Saskatoon)
- National Aboriginal Economic Development Symposium (Saskatoon)
- National Aboriginal Day Pow Wow (Wanuskewin Heritage Park)
- Saskatchewan Youth Awards (Regina)
- Saskatchewan Youth Summit (Saskatoon)
- Long-service Awards Ceremony for staff of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan (Regina)
- Commemoration Ceremony, 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge (Saskatchewan Legislature, Regina)
- President's Leadership Program Banquet, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (Regina)

The interns attended a presentation by Dr. David Suzuki which was held at the University of Regina. They attended a forum on media and politics, sponsored by the University of Regina (Department of Political Science) and the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy.

They also had opportunities to meet privately with several community and academic leaders in Saskatchewan:

- Pat Fiacco, Mayor, City of Regina
- Peter MacKinnon, President, University of Saskatchewan
- Val Orb, Mayor, Town of Cupar
- Tiffany Paulsen, Councillor, City of Saskatoon
- Roy Romanow, former premier of Saskatchewan

Mr. Randy Langgard of the Government of Saskatchewan's Executive Council provided the interns with a seminar on the preparation of the documents used to submit issues to the Provincial Cabinet for decision-making purposes (i.e. Cabinet Decision Items or CDIs).

Community Services Component



The Program incorporated a community-service component for the first time in 2007. Interns were encouraged to serve as volunteers in one or more of the province's community-based organizations.

The 2007 interns spent an afternoon at the Regina Food Bank where they helped to assemble food hampers. They also spent part of a day packing groceries for a food-nutrition program provided by the Good Food Box in Regina.

Administrative Component

The interns performed various administrative duties pertaining to the operation of the program. Duties were assigned to the interns in five areas:

- Organizing in-province meetings, conference, and seminars with organizations and individuals, as well as liaising with the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (lead responsibility assigned to Kiley Frantik),
- Administering a communications strategy for the Program, including managing correspondence on behalf of the interns and updating the Program's website (lead responsibility assigned to Justine Gilbert),
- Establishing relationships with internship programs in other jurisdictions and organizing the comparative study tour to Ottawa and the United Kingdom (lead responsibility assigned to Jonathan Selnes),
- Assisting with recruiting the 2008 interns and developing an alumni newsletter (lead responsibility assigned to Lucilia Pereira), and
- Arranging social events and general publicity, along with other special projects such as the community-services component (lead responsibility assigned to Jarita Greyeyes).

While individual interns assume lead responsibility for managing a specific administrative duty, all interns assist their colleagues to ensure that the activities associated with these duties contribute to the Program's overall success.

Funding

The Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan provides funding for scholarships for four interns (\$12,950 each in 2007), for all expenses incurred by these interns during their mentorship with private members of the Assembly, and for the honorarium and expenses of the Program's director. Rawlco Radio provides the equivalent funding for a scholarship and for expenses incurred by the fifth intern.

Additional funding – which is primarily directed to the intern-development component of the Program – is obtained in two ways. Most of this funding is generated through initiatives and requests undertaken by the Director and other supporters of the Program. A second source is realized through requests and fund-raising efforts undertaken by the interns. The latter efforts by the 2007 interns were instrumental in allowing the Program to expand its comparative study tour to include a visit to Edinburgh, Scotland.

Funders have been categorized according to the amount and use of their contributions. The following are the sources of funding for all components of the 2007 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program:

Financial Partners: Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Rawlco Radio
University of Regina
University of Saskatchewan

Corporate Sponsors: The Co-operators Group
SGI
First Canadian Title

Program Sponsors: Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Intern Sponsors: University of Regina Students Union
Arts and Science Students Union, University of Saskatchewan

Donors: Robertson Stromberg Pedersen LLP
Leonard Taylor

The funding received in all categories, except from intern sponsors, is recognized within the accounts of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. The funding from the intern sponsors is provided directly to individual interns to offset travel expenses associated with the intern development component of the Program; the interns are accountable personally to the funders for how they use these grants.

The 2007 interns also organized a fund-raising event which generated additional funding to supplement that which was available through the Program for the intern-development component. This event involved hosting a “Steak Night” for members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and other supporters of SLIP. The event was held on March 27, 2007 at Johnny Fox’s Restaurant and Pub. Sixty-nine tickets for a steak dinner were sold. Besides generating a surplus of \$450.67 for the interns, the event provided an opportunity to promote the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program and introduce its 2007 participants to the “Legislative Building community”.

Arrangements were also made for the interns to provide administrative support to the Canadian Political Science Association during the 2007 Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Four current interns and a former intern provided a variety of hosting services during the Congress. In return, SLIP received \$1,575.12 from the Federation.

Finally, it should be noted that donations were received from an individual and from a law firm. These donations were realized through the efforts of the interns and were applied towards funding the Program's intern-development component.

2007 Financial Statements

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program's statement of revenues and expenses for the period from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, inclusive, has been provided in Appendix B of this report. The Program consists of three components: the core program which is managed through the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and the intern development fund and Rawlco Aboriginal internship fund which are managed through the University of Saskatchewan. During 2006-07, the three components of the Program realized revenues of \$103,452.47 and expenditures of \$101,682.21, for an overall surplus of \$ 1,770.26.

The balance sheet for the intern development fund has also been provided in Appendix B. The core component of the Program is fully funded by the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and as such, ends each year without a surplus or deficit. The intern development fund has been in existence since the Program began and had an accumulated surplus of \$10,757.31 on September 30, 2007, down slightly from \$ 10,842.82 a year earlier. The Rawlco Aboriginal internship fund ended its first year with a surplus of \$ 1,855.77. The combined accumulated surplus for both funds was \$ 12,613.08 on September 30, 2007.

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Advisory Committee

The program's advisory committee serves to provide a governance framework for the Program. The members of this committee for the 2007 program were:

Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Ms. Sandra Morin, Government caucus representative
Mr. Dustin Duncan, Opposition caucus representative
Mr. Ken Pontikes, Director of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program
Mr. Greg Putz, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Professor Don Story, University of Saskatchewan representative
Professor Jeremy Rayner, University of Regina representative

The committee met once during 2006-07 to review the status and operations of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program.

Alumni Support and Engagement

With the completion of the 2007 internships, there are twenty-five former interns ("alumni") who have participated in the Saskatchewan Legislative internship Program. Over the years following their participation, former interns have been invited to receptions and other public events associated with the Program. Several have participated in the process of selecting future interns, providing orientation and advice to current interns, and generally promoting the program to students and potential sponsors.

During 2007, an alumni newsletter was published for the first time. The newsletter provided information on the recently-completed internship, as well as profiles on some of the former interns. The purpose of the newsletter, which is currently planned as an annual publication, is to provide an on-going link between former interns and the Program. It will also serve as a useful tool to promote the program to students and potential sponsors.

A copy of the 2007 SLIP Alumni Newsletter has been mailed to former interns. It is also posted on SLIP's website. We would like to acknowledge the design assistance provided by Jessica Paul, who participated as an intern in the 2002 Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program.

Administrative Issues

During the year, the University of Regina and the University of Saskatchewan signed a memorandum of agreement which formalized their support for, and participation in, the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program. The agreement articulates the role of the director and the SLIP Advisory Committee, the academic credits provided by both universities to the Program's interns, the provision of liability insurance coverage to interns, and administration of the Intern Development Fund.

Acknowledgements

The Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program's success is due to the assistance of many individuals. Among the most important are the members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan who volunteer to mentor an intern over a three-month period. SLIP has been very fortunate to have supportive MLAs on both sides of the House who are willing, through their participation, to share their knowledge and experience with some of this province's future leaders.

We also extend our thanks to politicians, public servants, community leaders, and journalists in Saskatchewan, Ottawa, and the United Kingdom who took the time to meet with our interns and to provide their candid insights on current political, public policy, and administrative issues. We would particularly like to thank the individuals in Edinburgh, Scotland, who met for the first time with Saskatchewan Legislative Interns.

SLIP would not be possible without the administrative support provided by the staff of the Legislative Assembly, the Government and Opposition Caucus Offices, and the Department of Political Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Particular mention needs to be given to the assistance we received from Monique Lovatt of the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly and Alexis Dahl of the Department of Political Studies, University of Saskatchewan.

We also want to acknowledge the organizational support we received from the Parliamentary Internship Program. This year, we would like to acknowledge the assistance provided by Daniel Thompson, 2007 Parliamentary Intern, as well as JoAnne Cartwright, Parliamentary Internship Program Administration.

With respect to the portion of the tour which took place in London, we would like to thank Lizzie Broadbent (Overseas Office, House of Commons) and Priya Nath (Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs). We also want to thank Lorraine Kay (International Events and Visits) who organized the tour in Edinburgh.

Finally, we thank our 2007 interns – Kiley Frantik, Justine Gilbert, Jarita Greyeyes, Lucilia Pereira, and Jonathan Selnes. Through their term as interns, they participated in accordance with the principles of nonpartisanship and respected the need to protect the confidentiality of the information they handled. They also brought new ideas and perspectives to the Program which enhanced the internship experience. Several initiatives – such as the community-service component, the expanded comparative study tour, and the intern-sponsored fund-raising activities – are likely to continue into subsequent years.

Through the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, five young people had an opportunity to experience the processes of developing and implementing public policy in Saskatchewan. Kiley, Justine, Jarita, Lucilia, and Jonathan also gained a greater understanding and appreciation of our parliamentary system of governance. What they learned and experienced during their internship will undoubtedly influence their role as future leaders of our province and nation.

Further information about the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program, including application procedures, can be obtained from the Program's website at www.legassembly.sk.ca/internship. Also, the Program's Director, Ken Pontikes can be contacted by email at kpontikes@sasktel.net or by mail at:

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Room 919, Arts Building
9 Campus Drive
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Appendix A

2007 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



Kiley Bear (née Kiley Frantik) was born in Leoville, where she graduated from high school and won the mathematics award. She currently considers Prince Albert as her home.

Kiley received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with honours in political studies, from the University of Saskatchewan in 2005. She is currently completing her requirements for a Master of Arts degree. Her thesis examines the history, purpose, and operations of regional economic development authorities in Saskatchewan.

Kiley appeared on the Dean's Honour List throughout her undergraduate years and was subsequently awarded a Graduate Teaching Fellowship at the University of Saskatchewan. She received an Explore Bursary from the federal government in 2005 to study French in Trois-Rivières, Québec. She also received a bursary in 2006 from the University of Saskatchewan Graduate Student Association.

In 2004, she was a finalist in the "Your Future is Here" scholarship program, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Research Council. Her idea involved creating a virtual bulletin board to facilitate, for a small fee, on-line sales by students of used textbooks and other articles.

At the University of Saskatchewan, Kiley was an active member of the Political Studies and Public Administration Students Society. She has been a member of the Society's executive, serving as secretary. She has also served as a general news reporter for the University's student newspaper, *The Sheaf*. Recently, she has been a tutor to a special-needs student at the University of Saskatchewan.

Kiley has been an active member of her community. During her high school years, she participated in the Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) club. In Saskatoon, she has been a volunteer mentor for children through the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Association. She regularly participates in charitable events, such as "Relay for Life" which raises funds for cancer research, and the Food Bank's "Trick or Eat" program.

Kiley enjoys playing sports in her leisure time. In the winter, she plays on a recreational volleyball team and in the summer, she plays slow-pitch. She enjoys reading novels and keeping up with current events.

Following completion of her internship, Kiley joined the City of Prince Albert as a communications manager. She was married in July of 2007.



Justine Gilbert is a graduate of Usher Collegiate in Regina, where she actively participated in drama productions. She also enjoyed writing for the *Regina Leader-Post's* "Minus 20" series.

Following graduation from high school, she spent three years in England, working in the hospitality industry. She then returned to Regina and enrolled at the University of Regina.

Justine is currently in her fourth year of university studies. She is working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a double major in economics and political studies and with minors in Asian studies and in Leadership and Dialogue.

Over several semesters, Justine has been on the Dean's Honours List. She has received the Academic Gold Scholarship, for being in the top one percent of her faculty and the Academic Silver Scholarship. In 2005, she received the David L. Beattie Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded annually to an outstanding economics student.

As part of the academic requirements for Asian studies, she spent one month in the People's Republic of China in 2005. Based on her experiences and research, she prepared a paper on the health care system in China, with comparative analysis to the systems in Canada and the United States.

Within the Leadership and Dialogue component of her studies, Justine undertook a project that examined social welfare services in Regina, with a focus on the work of Soul's Harbour Mission. She also participated in a group-based project that worked with the Communities for Tomorrow Partnership and the Mayor's Task Force on Shaping Regina.

At the University of Regina, Justine is a volunteer team director with Engineers Without Borders. She is also a member of the Economics Student Society and the Golden Key Society. She has served as a volunteer at the Globe Theatre.

During the summer of 2006, Justine was employed by Regina's Old Warehouse Business Improvement District. She was responsible for preparing development research pertaining to the economic impact of this business area on Regina's economy.

Following the completion of her internship, Justine accepted a position as a policy analyst for Saskatchewan Culture, Youth and Recreation. She is also completing the course requirements for her undergraduate degree at the University of Regina.



Jarita Greyeyes is the 2007 Rawlco Aboriginal Saskatchewan Legislative Intern. This internship is part of the Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program and exists through a financial contribution from Rawlco Radio.

Jarita is Cree, with roots in the Muskeg Lake and Red Pheasant First Nations. She was born in Edmonton and raised in Toronto and Saskatoon.

Jarita attended elementary school in Toronto and began her high school education at the Etobicoke School of the Arts, where her major was in drama and her minor was in dance and musical theatre. She completed her high school education at Rosthern Junior College where she served on the dormitory council for a one-year term and was a member of the College's drama troupe, *Thespionage*.

Jarita has a Bachelor of Arts degree, with a major in psychology and a minor in politics, from the University of Winnipeg. In 2006, she received the Business Council of Manitoba Aboriginal Education Award, in recognition of her involvement in community activities.

While at university, Jarita volunteered to help organize the Aboriginal Student Council's annual spring pow wow and was hired as a tutor for students, through the university's Aboriginal Student Services Department, in the areas of psychology, English, politics, and drama.

She has been a member of the board of directors for the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (Local 8 of the Canadian Federation of Students) and has served on the University's Senate. She was elected as the Manitoba Aboriginal Commissioner for the provincial component of the Canadian Federation of Students and subsequently, served on the Federation's national executive as the representative for the Aboriginal caucus. Through her involvement in student politics, Jarita has worked on a number of important issues, including those pertaining to ending violence against Aboriginal women (in collaboration with Amnesty International's "Stolen Sisters" campaign) and eradicating poverty (through the "Make Poverty History" campaign).

Jarita's volunteer work includes serving as a teacher's assistant at the Manitoba Theatre for Young People. She has organized activities for children as a youth program volunteer for the Spence Neighbourhood Association in Winnipeg.

Jarita has been employed in the retail sector in Toronto and Winnipeg and as a paddling pool attendant for the City of Saskatoon. She was employed as a summer employment officer for Human Resources and Skills Development Canada in Winnipeg, where she assisted young people to find summer employment and conducted workshops on safety in the workplace. Most recently, Jarita has been employed as an executive assistant by the University of Winnipeg's Students' Association.

Following the completion of her SLIP internship, Jarita traveled to Georgetown, Guyana, where she is working for a non-government organization that develops educational programs for youth.



Lucilia (Lucy) Pereira received her early education at St. Mark's Elementary School in Saskatoon. She attended Bishop James Mahoney High School, where she was actively involved in the debating team, the Model United Nations Club, and the school band. In addition to playing the flute, she achieved the Grade 8 level in piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music. Upon graduating from high school, she was awarded the Canadian National Railway Scholarship and the St. Mary's Credit Union Bursary.

Lucy was an active member of the Girl Guides of Canada, where she mentored and encouraged younger girls to become leaders in their communities. She participated in organizing the annual food bank and cookie drives, as well as various summer and winter camps.

Lucy attended the University of Saskatchewan and received a Bachelor of Arts degree, with high honours in political studies, in 2005. She subsequently completed the requirements for a Master of Arts degree. Her thesis, "Free and Fair: The Politicization of Election Monitoring Reports", examines the processes of election observation and monitoring in developing countries seeking democratic consolidation.

While at university, Lucy was on the Dean's Honour List. She received a University of Saskatchewan Graduate Scholarship, the St. Thomas More Political Studies Award, the Norman Ward Scholarship, and the Robert Lawton Elliot Book Prize.

In 2002, Lucy was one of four elected University of Saskatchewan Student Senators. In this capacity, she participated in administrative tribunals where she was involved in the University's decision-making processes and gave voice to students' concerns and issues.

Lucy has served as a volunteer with the Elizabeth Fry Society. She has served as a court case worker, attending afternoon docket court twice a week. As well, she volunteered to spend one-on-one time with women in the Community Training Residence.

Lucy is an active member of the Saskatoon Portuguese Canadian Community Association. She has served as the youth coordinator and has organized dances and religious events.

While at university, Lucy has been employed as a circulation clerk at the University of Saskatchewan's main library. She has also worked as a cashier for the Saskatoon Co-op.

Upon completing her internship, Lucy was employed by the Government of Alberta as an information and correspondence co-ordinator.



Jonathan Selnes is from Melfort. He played many sports while in elementary and high school, including judo (where he has achieved the rank of green belt), basketball, baseball, skateboarding, and snowboarding. He played several positions on his high school football team, the Melfort Comets, and was a member of the team when it won the provincial championship.

Jonathan graduated from Melfort and Unit Comprehensive Collegiate in 2001. He was awarded the Melfort Cooperative Association Leadership Award.

Jonathan spent a year in Sweden as a Rotary Exchange Student. He took high school classes at the Varsberg Gymnasium Skolan. He became conversationally fluent and functionally literate in Swedish through these classes and by living with three host families.

Following his return from Sweden, Jonathan was awarded a Scholar's Advantage (Entrance) Scholarship to attend the University of Calgary. He completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2006, with a major in political science and minor in history. He was a member of the Dean's List.

During his first three years at the University of Calgary, Jonathan lived in the Residence Halls. He initially represented students from his floor in the Residence Students' Association. Subsequently, he was elected the association's president and was responsible for hiring, training, and managing a staff of forty and a \$150,000 budget. He also served on several university-wide committees, including the Residence Advisory Committee and the Student Advisory Council. His contributions were acknowledged when he received the RLPA Leadership Society Certificate of Appreciation and the Residents Students' Association Certificate of Appreciation.

Jonathan has been involved as an organizer and participant in Shinerama, a fund-raising event to support people with cystic fibrosis. During the past two summers, he has been employed as a cook at the Saltlik Steakhouse in Calgary.

Following his internship, Jonathan commenced studies in law school at Queen's University in Kingston.

Appendix B

Saskatchewan Legislative Internship Program Intern Development Fund and Rawlco Aboriginal Internship Fund

Balance Sheet September 30, 2007

Assets

Due from University of Saskatchewan (Note 1)	<u>\$ 14,116.87</u>
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Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,503.79
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Accumulated Surplus

Intern Development	\$ 10,757.31	
Rawlco Aboriginal Internship	1,855.77	<u>12,613.08</u>

Liabilities and Accumulated Surplus

\$ 14,116.87

Statement of Revenues and Expenses Core Program and Intern Development For the Period from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007

	Core Program	Intern Development	Rawlco Internship	Total
Revenues				
Legislative Assembly of Sask.	\$68,762.35			\$68,762.35
Rawlco Radio			\$20,000.00	20,000.00
University of Regina		\$4,000.00		4,000.00
University of Saskatchewan		4,000.00		4,000.00
The Cooperators Group		3,000.00		3,000.00
Can. Political Science Assoc.(Note 2)		1,575.12		1,575.12
SGI		1,000.00		1,000.00
First Canadian Title		1,000.00		1,000.00
Robertson Stromberg Pedersen LLP		100.00		100.00
Leonard Taylor		15.00		15.00
Total Revenues (Notes 3, 4, and 5)	<u>\$68,762.35</u>	<u>\$14,690.12</u>	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$103,452.47</u>
Expenses				
Academic Director – Honorarium	\$ 9,349.58			\$ 9,349.58
Interns – Scholarship	51,800.00		\$12,950.00	64,750.00
Travel – Director	2,106.55			2,106.55
Travel – Interns	1,973.76	\$14,566.73	3,981.70	20,522.19
Administrative and Other Expenses	3,532.46	208.90	1,212.53	4,953.89
Total Expenses	<u>\$68,762.35</u>	<u>\$14,775.63</u>	<u>\$18,144.23</u>	<u>\$101,682.21</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>Nil</u>	<u>\$ (85.51)</u>	<u>\$ 1,855.77</u>	<u>\$ 1,770.26</u>

Notes to Financial Statements:

1. All cash for the Intern Development Fund and for the Rawlco Aboriginal Internship Fund are being held, on behalf of the program, by the University of Saskatchewan.
2. The interns provided administrative support to the Canadian Political Science Association during the 2007 Congress of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. In recognition of this assistance, the Federation paid \$1,575.12 to SLIP.
3. The interns organized a fund-raising event to provide supplementary financing for their comparative study tour. A "steak night" for members of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan and other supporters of SLIP was held on March 27, 2007. The event generated a surplus of \$450.67 for the interns. These funds were administered and allocated directly by the interns and were not available for the general use of the Program. Therefore, they are not included in the SLIP financial statements.
4. The Program received in-kind support from the Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy (hosting a welcoming reception for the interns in January 2007 and providing opportunities to participate in the Institute's programs), the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association (providing meals during the interns' attendance at the Association's annual convention), and Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority (providing admission and participation to its Aboriginal Day Pow-Wow). The value of this in-kind support is not included in the SLIP financial statements.
5. As registered students at the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina, the interns were eligible to apply for travel grants from their respective students' association. University of Saskatchewan interns received \$125.00 from the Arts and Science Students' Union. University of Regina interns received \$ 1,500.00 from the University of Regina Students' Union. These amounts were directly granted to the interns, and not to the Program; therefore, they are not included in the SLIP financial statements.

Appendix C

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2007 ORIENTATION PROGRAM

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns and provided briefing information on their responsibilities. These meetings occurred during the orientation component of the 2007 program.

Ms. Suzanne Anderson, Assistant to the House Leader, Government Caucus
His Honour the Honourable Dr. Gordon Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan
Ms. Melissa Bennett, Legislative Librarian
Mr. Marv Bernstein, Children's Advocate
Mr. Cam Baker, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2003)
Ms. Corinne Barnett, Treasury Board Analyst, Department of Finance
Ms. Jane Blackett, Reference and Electronic Resources Librarian, Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Mr. John Brand, Director of Advocacy Services, Children's Advocate Office
Hon. Lorne Calvert, Premier of Saskatchewan
Mr. Michel Carpentier, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2006)
Ms. Deanna Cunningham, Advisor, Human Resources and Administrative Services
Mr. Al Dennett, Executive Director, Department of Finance
Mr. Gary Dickson, Information and Privacy Commissioner
Mr. Kevin Fenwick, Provincial Ombudsman
Mr. Gerald Gerrand, Q.C., Conflict of Interest Commissioner
Mr. Kyall Glennie, Director of Research, Legislative and House Business, Government Caucus
Ms. Terry Gudmundson, Opposition Caucus Office
Ms. Terry Harris, Opposition Caucus Office
Ms. Clare Isman, Chair, Public Service Commission
Ms. Pat Kolesar, Assistant Legislative Librarian
Hon. P. Myron Kowalsky, Speaker, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Ms. Iris Lang, Clerk Assistant (Committees), Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Mr. Randy Langgard, Senior Policy Advisor, Cabinet Planning Unit
Mr. Justin Leifso, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2006)
Mr. Murray Mandryk, Saskatchewan News Network
Mr. Jim Marshall, Chief Economist, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Dr. Gregory Marchildon Canada Research Chair, University of Regina
Ms. Ginette Michaluk, Assistant Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services
Ms. Wendy Moss, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2002)
Ms. Jessica Paul, Opposition Caucus Office and Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2002)
Mr. Ian Peach, Director, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Ms. Alyssa Peel, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2005)
Mr. Dan Perrins, Deputy Minister to the Premier
Ms. Leslie Polsom, Director of Reference Services, Saskatchewan Legislative Library
Mr. Greg Putz, Clerk, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Mr. Ken Ring, Legislative Counsel and Law Clerk
Ms. Gwenn Ronyk, former Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Ms. Deb Saum, Executive Director, Office of Protocol and Honours

Dr. David Smith, Senior Policy Fellow, Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy
Mr. Kyle Toffan, Former Saskatchewan Legislative Intern (2005)
Mr. Brad Wall, Leader of the Opposition
Mr. Fred Wendel, Provincial Auditor
Ms. Margaret Woods, Clerk Assistant, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
Mr. Wayne Zelmer, Performance Management Group, Department of Finance

Appendix D

PARTICIPANTS DURING 2007 INTERNS' COMPARATIVE STUDY TOUR

We would like to thank the following individuals who met with the interns when they traveled to Ottawa, London, and Edinburgh (from April 15-28, 2007) as part of the SLIP's intern development component.

Ottawa

Hon. Raynell Andreychuk, Senator
Hon. Mr. Justice Michel Bastarache, Supreme Court of Canada
Mr. Keith Boag, CBC News
Mr. Marc Bosc, Deputy Clerk, House of Commons
Mr. Mike Duffy, CTV News
Mr. Kevin Farrell, Visits and Research Officer, British High Commission
Hon. Ralph Goodale, MP Wascana
Mr. Mike Harris, former Premier of Ontario
Mr. James Hurley, former constitutional advisor to the Government of Canada
Mr. Michael Ignatieff, MP Etobicoke-Lakeshore
Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the federal New Democratic Party and MP Toronto-Danforth
Mr. Preston Manning, former leader of the Reform Party of Canada
Mr. Gary Merasty, MP Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill Rivers
Hon. Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons
Mr. Patrick Monihan, Head of Political Affairs, United States Embassy
Mr. Charles Robert, Clerk of the Senate
Hon. Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue and MP Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggar
Mr. Colin Smith, Head of Political Section, British High Commission
Mr. Thierry St-Cyr, MP Jeanne-Le Ber
Mr. Maurice Vellacott, MP Saskatoon-Wanuskewin
Ms. Zsuzsanna M. Zsohar, spouse of Mr. Michael Ignatieff
Head of Economic Section, United States Embassy
Head of Political Section, United States Embassy

London

Mr. David Beamish, Clerk of the Overseas Office, House of Lords
Ms. Lizzie Broadbent, Overseas Office, House of Commons
Ms. Jo Burden, Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Mr. Rob Curtis, Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Ms. Judith Denwood, Head of Canada Section, Foreign Office
Mr. Meenakshi Dhar, Programmes, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Mr. Paul Docker, Director of Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Mr. Arik Dondi, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Ms. Nancy Hay, Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Mr. Andrew Imlach, Director, Information Services, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Ms. Christine Marshall, spouse of Mr. David Marshall
Mr. David Marshall, Head, All-Party Canada Group and MP Glasgow East
Lt. Col. Alexander Matheson, Secretary, Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood
Mr. Joe Omorodion, Financial Controller, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Ms. Carolin Otim, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Mr. Glen Preston, Head of Constitutional Policy, Scotland Office
Ms. Elspeth Rainbow, Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Mr. David Rowland, Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Mr. Alan Sandall, Parliamentary Clerk, Public Bills Office, House of Commons
Dr. William Shija, Secretary General, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
Ms. Amy Tait, Electoral Policy Division, Department of Constitutional Affairs
Dr. James Wildgoose, Head, Scotland Office

Edinburgh

Ms. Elish Angiolini, Lord Advocate for Scotland
Mr. Ian Donnelson, Foreign Division, Scottish Executive
Ms. Beryl Gibb, United Kingdom Division, Scottish Executive

Appendix E

2007 SLIP INTERNS' REPORT ON THEIR COMPARATIVE STUDY TOUR

Prepared by

Kiley Frantik, Justine Gilbert, Jarita Greyeyes, Lucilia Pereira, and Jonathan Selnes

Sunday, April 15, 2007

Our Comparative Study Tour began in the early hours of the morning on Sunday, April 15, 2007. Jonathan picked up Justine and drove to Lucy's house where Kiley and Lucy were awaiting their arrival. United we headed to the airport and were checked in for our flight without delay. Tired from the early morning but excited for our trip to begin we got on the airplane and flew to Winnipeg at 6:30 a.m.

Arriving in Winnipeg at 8:35 a.m. we had several hours to kill before our next flight to Ottawa so we exited the terminal we were in and went for breakfast in the Winnipeg Airport's food court. After eating breakfast we spent the next couple of hours napping, discussing the politics of Saskatchewan including the Murdoch Carriere "scandal" and talked about the places we wanted to see while on the trip.

At 11:55 a.m. we departed Winnipeg and flew to Ottawa. This flight was much better than the first since the airplane was much newer giving us a better selection of movies to choose from. We touched down in Ottawa at 3:20 p.m. Once our bags were collected we took the airport shuttle from the airport to our accommodations for our time in Ottawa, the Shenkman residence at the Downtown YM-YWCA. The drive over from the airport took just over thirty minutes. Ottawa greeted us with an overcast day and rain that never stopped falling that day from the time we arrived.

Arriving at the YM-YWCA we quickly checked into our residence room. The room was a two room combination with four beds, a cot, a TV with cable, and a full bathroom. The room was functional but calling it drab would be kind. After unpacking our bags and meeting up with Jarita we headed out for supper as all of us were famished having just had mediocre airplane food for lunch during our flight from Winnipeg to Ottawa.

Walking through the rain we made it to Parliament Hill in twenty minutes. After taking a quick photo in the rain we continued on to the Fish Market District. Once in the district we stopped for supper at a classic Ottawa eatery, Zak's Restaurant. Zak's Restaurant is a 1950's style diner with big portions of good food. We enjoyed a relaxed supper of burgers, coleslaw, and fries followed by a round of hot tea for everyone.

With supper finished we meandered around the district some more checking out the architecture and commenting on how different Ottawa is from cities in Western Canada. Eventually the rain chased us back to the YM-YWCA, where we headed back for an early evening. By 10:00 p.m. the last of the lights went out and we got a good sleep before the first real day of our Comparative Study Tour.

Monday, April 16, 2007

Our first real day of the tour began with a rude awakening. Up at 7:00 a.m. we pulled back our window curtains where we were greeted by snow! And lots of it! After getting ready

and eating breakfast in the YM-YWCA cafeteria we hailed a cab and went to pick up our security passes for Parliament Hill in a government building on Wellington Street.

We arrived early, even before the person in charge of giving us the security passes arrived at his office. We quickly received the passes and walked to the Parliament of Canada. The walk was a short one but the snow, which was nearly a rain at this point, definitely made the walk seem further than it actually was. Once inside the Parliament building we passed through security, the first of many times we would do this, and dried off while waiting for our tour guide.

Once our tour guide arrived we spent the next hour touring the Parliament of Canada. The tour was great since it was only us interns and we learned a lot about the history of the building along with some great inside stories that none of us had heard before. As soon as the tour was complete we had our first meeting, with the Leader of the Federal NDP, Toronto MP Jack Layton.

We were right on time for our meeting with Mr. Layton but unfortunately he was not as a prior event kept him from being on time. However, this turned out alright because we had the opportunity to meet one of his assistants. She was from Edmonton and had been an intern in the Parliamentary Internship Program. We chatted with her for a while comparing and contrasting our experiences as interns in the two programs until Mr. Layton arrived.

When Mr. Layton arrived he welcomed us to Ottawa and then began our meeting as a question and answer session. The meeting was very interesting and covered several different topics. The most interesting question and answer were about the decision by the Liberals and the Green Party to not run candidates against each other in the ridings of Liberal Party Leader Stéphane Dion and Green Party Leader Elizabeth May. Several more questions were asked and answered and we all came away impressed by Mr. Layton's enthusiasm and intelligence.



Our next meeting was with Charles Robert, the Principal Clerk of the Senate. Mr. Robert was an outgoing and welcoming person. With passion and gusto he briefed us on the role of the Senate, the history of the Senate, some of the important actions of the Senate and on his belief of why the Senate was still relevant as a house of business within the Parliament of Canada. None of us had been sure about what to expect from our meeting with the Clerk but it turned out to be one of the most informative and rewarding. The meeting with Mr. Robert was just under two

hours by the time it was completed and we headed off to the Parliamentary Cafeteria for a quick lunch.

After a fast lunch at the Parliamentary Cafeteria we left the building and headed over to the US Embassy. Arriving at the building we were quite surprised at the high level of security compared to the Parliament building. After several minutes of standing in the snowy rain we entered the building and made it through the security process.

Once inside we were taken upstairs to a massive boardroom where we were met by three gentlemen, the head's of the Political, Economic, and Public Affairs sections of the US Embassy. The next hour was spent discussing the United States' role in the world and how the Canada-US relationship fit into this picture. The three men were career diplomats so we also had the opportunity to hear about their experiences in other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Brazil, South Korea, Russia, and Japan just to name a few. Ultimately the impression we were left with was that the Canada-US relationship is a very strong and important relationship and that the relationship, from their perspective, was working better under Prime Minister Harper's Canada than it had in the last years of the Jean Chretien/Paul Martin's Prime Ministerships.

Leaving the US Embassy we hurried back to the Parliamentary building and breezed through security as the weather seemed to be keeping the building rather quiet. In a rush we made it the Speaker of the House of Commons Liberal MP Peter Milliken's office ten minutes behind schedule. This turned out not to be a problem as Speaker Milliken was running behind schedule as well. After waiting several minutes we were ushered into his office, one of the most impressive we would see on the entire tour. After exchanging pleasantries we sat down and began the meeting. The meeting revolved around the role of the speaker with a bit of personal background information from Mr. Milliken, who told us that while a high school student he had a regularly read Hansard and followed proceedings in the House of Commons. Coming close to running behind schedule again we bid goodbye to Mr. Milliken after a photo in his office and headed over to the Confederation Building to meet with Minister of National Revenue Saskatchewan's Conservative MP Carol Skelton.



Ms. Skelton greeted us warmly and offered to help us warm up from the bad weather with some tea, which we all gratefully accepted. The meeting began with Ms. Skelton pointing out all the paintings, pictures, and other objects in her office that all came from Saskatchewan. From there we discussed a variety of issues specific to Saskatchewan politics including the Murdoch Carriere "scandal," equalization payments, and why she felt that the Conservative Party did so well in Saskatchewan along with why she had entered federal politics in the first place. Our meeting

ended with Ms. Skelton doing her best to arrange a meeting with the Prime Minister for us and promises to see her again later in the week.

Hungry and ready for a slower pace we left Confederation Building and headed over to Milestone's restaurant. Inside we settled into a table and unwound together as a group enjoying some drinks and a nice long supper. Needing some reading material we left Milestone's and made the short trek to the Chapter's next to the Rideau Centre. With an hour of browsing purchases were made and we walked back to the hostel ready for bed after a long day.

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Tuesday morning was another early morning but it was a happier morning as we were not met with rain or snow upon awakening. Breakfast was spent eating in the YM-YWCA Cafeteria before walking to Parliament Hill to begin our day.

Our first meeting was with the Conservative Saskatchewan Senator Raynell Andreychuk. Ms. Andreychuk was a fascinating woman whose background included time as a judge and diplomat before becoming a senator. The meeting went from a discussion about current political events in Saskatchewan and Ottawa to a discussion of what Canada's role should be in international affairs. From the senator's office we hurried to our next meeting with CBC's Chief Political Correspondent Keith Boag.

Mr. Boag was one of the highlights of the trip and all of us would say he is a must meet person while you are in Ottawa. Mr. Boag began with a brief summary of his background and how he arrived at his current position with the CBC. From there the rest of the meeting was in the question and answer format, which gave us the opportunity to ask numerous questions. The meeting felt like a university seminar and we all learned a great deal. Some of the questions asked included: What did Mr. Boag think about the Elizabeth May and Stéphane Dion agreement not to run candidates against one another in their respective ridings? What did Mr. Boag feel about the Liberal Party's chances of regaining power versus the Conservative Party's ability to be elected to a majority government? How important did Mr. Boag think Climate Change and the War in Afghanistan were as issues facing all the federal political parties? The hour we had scheduled with Mr. Boag soon turned into an hour and a half at which time Mr. Boag had to leave for other commitments. Needless to say we were sorry to see him go after such an excellent meeting.

Grabbing a quick bite at Subway we headed back over to the Parliamentary Buildings where we had a quick meet and greet with Saskatchewan Liberal MP Gary Merasty. The meeting was so brief because Mr. Merasty has been asked that morning to make a statement on behalf of the Liberals and he had to cancel our meeting so he could be properly briefed before giving the statement in the House of Commons.

With our meet and greet with Mr. Merasty over we headed back to the same building where we had met with Keith Boag to meet with a former Director of the Parliamentary Internship Program and Constitutional Advisor to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's government, Mr. James Ross Hurley.

Mr. Hurley spent the next hour and half regaling us with stories from the late 1960's to the early 1990's of the constitutional battles, his interactions with the principle players involved including Prime Minister Trudeau, and how he felt the Charter of Rights and Freedoms had changed Canada for the better. With the meeting concluded we were all quite tired and ready for a change of pace. Thankfully a tour of Rideau Hall provided exactly that.

A short cab ride later we were at Rideau Hall. We had a tour guide all to ourselves and he did a great job as he led us through the building. The relaxed pace and chance to just listen to the tour provided all of us with a much needed energy boost after such a long day of meetings. With the tour over we headed back to Parliament Hill and took the opportunity to do some browsing around in the shops in the area. Supper was had at a pick and go restaurant and the rest of the evening we shopped in the Rideau Centre and shops around the Fish Market District.

Tired after another long day we walked back to the YM-YWCA and were in bed just after 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 18, 2007

Wednesday morning was a delight. We headed out early so we could grab a coffee and light breakfast before we were due at the Supreme Court. We decided to check out a fair trade coffee shop on Bank Street called the Stonehouse. From the Stonehouse we walked to the Supreme Court, enjoying our first dose of real nice weather in Ottawa.

We arrived at the Supreme Court where we were greeted by our tour guide. The guide showed us the Federal Court, the Library and the Photo gallery. We were then taken to the Supreme Court Chambers where we met with Justice Michel Bastarache who explained the Judicial Branch and the Supreme Court and how they fit into our system of governance. We left the Supreme Court and had a couple of hours before our next meeting. We decided it was a perfect opportunity to have a photo shoot.

We walked behind Parliament Hill and saw all the statues and memorials around the hill. We even saw the cats! At noon, we headed to the legendary Darcy McGee's for some traditional pub fare with the hope of running into some political celebrities.

After Lunch we headed back to Parliament Hill for Question Period. We were surprised to discover that the Ottawa Interns had forgotten to arrange Question Period passes for us. We were saved by Saskatchewan Conservative MP Maurice Vellacott, who happened to be Lucy's MP. She explained our situation and he pulled some strings with security and we were eventually seated in the gallery. Question Period was great. We had the opportunity to hear opposition MP's chastise Harper for hiring and paying for a personal stylist.

After Question Period, Carol Skelton met us outside of the galleries and took us to the Prime Minister's Office. We did not get invited in to meet the Prime Minister but we did bump into former Leader of the Reform Party Preston Manning and the former Conservative Premier of Ontario Mike Harris outside the doors. After we snapped a few photos, Ms. Skelton took us on a tour of the Cabinet office and gave us Privy Council note pads and pencils.

Later in the afternoon we had the opportunity to sit down with a Bloc Québécois MP, Thierry St-Cyr. We had a great discussion with him about Québec Separatism and the similarities and differences between the provinces of Québec and Saskatchewan. We left Thierry's office and headed to Liberal Saskatchewan MP Ralph Goodale's office.

As we were waiting in line for security, we bumped into Liberal MP Michael Ignatieff and his wife, Zsuzsanna M. Zsohar. We had the opportunity to chat with them about their busy schedules. Once we met up with Mr. Goodale, we sat down and talked about Saskatchewan politics with a particular focus on equalization and the Murdoch Carriere "scandal". The discussion with Mr. Goodale was excellent and he left us feeling that Saskatchewan was well represented by him in Ottawa.

At around 6:30 p.m. we had the opportunity to meet with Mike Duffy, the host of Mike Duffy Live on CTV. Mr. Duffy tried very hard to help us meet the Prime Minister but luck was not on his side and he was unsuccessful. Mr. Duffy introduced us to most of Cabinet and told us a number of stories about past Prime Ministers including how Prime Minister John A. McDonald passed away in his office and how a journalist tried to hypnotize Prime Minister Trudeau during a scrum in the 1970's. After meeting Mr. Duffy we have a better understanding of how television and politics intersect and why Mr. Duffy has had such a successful television career on Parliament Hill.

Once we said our goodbyes to Mr. Duffy we went down to the market to a restaurant called Oregano's for a pasta dinner. We wrapped up the night with a quick email session at an internet café and then headed back to the YM-YWCA for the night.

Thursday April 19, 2007

Thursday morning was a relaxing one. Our first meeting was at 9:30 a.m. so we had plenty of time to check out the café at the YM-YWCA for breakfast. We then walked down Elgin Street to the British High Commission for our first appointment. After we cleared security we were met by the Head of the Political Section Colin Smith and a Visits and Research Officer Kevin Farrell to discuss Canada-United Kingdom relations. We had the opportunity to ask questions about the elections being held in Scotland and the future of the Labour Government.

Once we wrapped up our meeting we headed to Center Block for an appointment with Marc Bosc the Deputy Clerk of the House of Commons. Our conversation was fabulous. He discussed house procedure with us as well as Parliamentary decorum. One of our favourite stories that he shared with us was about an MP who threw a budget document across the floor because he was so outraged.

We ended our day on Parliament Hill with lunch in the cafeteria. Stir-fry and salad bar were popular options. Because we were flying out of Ottawa that evening, the female interns decided that they would need to hit the mall one last time to ensure that they had all the essentials for London. Jon, however, headed to the Parliamentary Interns headquarters to drop off a present for the intern coordinator. Once there, Jon had the opportunity to talk with the director of the national program and hear some very interesting stories.

We all met back at the YM-YWCA and caught the shuttle bus to the airport. With plenty of time to spare we sat down for a bite to eat and a drink in the airport while we awaited our flight. Once we boarded the plane, Lucy realized that she had been placed in a different row than the other interns. Justine politely asked a gentleman if he would not mind switching seats and he gladly complied. Once again, all five interns were united.

Friday, April 20, 2007

Our flight arrived on time to an early cloudy grey morning in London, England. Some of the interns were groggier than others from a lack of sleep on the flight but all of us were happy to have made the Trans-Atlantic flight and we were all ready to begin the next stage of our adventure. After collecting our luggage, which thankfully had made the trip across the Atlantic we made our way to Customs Inspections. When they were checking our passports the immigration official mistook Jarita for Lucy, and Lucy for Jarita. After studying our passports to verify our identity claims the woman stamped our passports and we were on our way. We expected to be searched at customs but we literally just breezed through and went towards the tube station for our first tube experience.

A careful reading of the tube map led us to take the tube to Piccadilly Circus from Heathrow International Airport. This was quite the trek and gave us a first hand experience in commuting London style as the train was nearly empty when we first boarded but full after twenty minutes with commuters heading into central London. After an hour and twenty minute ride we emerged from the tube station struggling with our luggage to a still grey morning in central London. After orienting ourselves we made the two minute walk to our hostel, Piccadilly Backpackers Hostel. This, we would soon discover, was an ideal location from which to base our travels around central London. We checked into the hostel with a little bit of trouble since Jonathan could not find the booking number for our reservation and we had forgotten that Alexis had booked the room under her name (In future years we would suggest that you book the hostel

under the name of one of the interns to avoid hassles and confusion). Our room would be unavailable until 1:00 p.m. so we stored our luggage in the secure storage room and set out to explore London.

Leaving the hostel we had a breakfast at a nearby coffee shop and had our first of many experiences with rude British customer service. Our server was extremely rude almost to the point that it was laughable. She yelled at the customer in front of us for not counting out his change fast enough and glared at us when we ordered. We came to expect customer service that was much different than what we were accustomed to in Canada. It is not unusual to have to seek out help when shopping, and one should not expect courteous responses to queries. After eating some mediocre sandwiches the interns set off to wander around London.

We began walking from Piccadilly Circus and walked until we discovered Trafalgar Square. After taking some photos and enjoying the energy of the people in the square we continued on. Our next walking adventure took us to St. James Park where we wandered around enjoying the green space and serenity after being slightly overwhelmed by the crowded streets of London. From the park we carried on walking until we stumbled upon a bunch of men in old-fashioned military uniforms on horses walking around doing a parade routine. We spent some time enjoying the horses before heading back towards Trafalgar Square. Walking away from Trafalgar Square we soon found Covent Garden, which had a great outdoor market and some good shopping including an H and M Clothing Store. After browsing the shops for a while we ate a quick fast food lunch and headed back to the hostel for a long needed nap. We checked into our room, picked out who would get what spots on which bunk beds and promptly all fell asleep despite the fact that the exterior of the hostel was being renovated, and there were workers on the scaffolding outside our windows using jackhammers.

We napped for five hours and awoke refreshed and hungry. Heading out into Piccadilly Circus area again we headed towards Leicester Square looking at the menus for several restaurants before settling on a Vietnamese Restaurant on Shaftsbury Avenue. We enjoyed a long and relaxing meal at the restaurant. Once we finished eating we headed back out to do some shopping around Piccadilly Circus. Full and still a bit tired from the flight we went back to the hostel. After a couple drinks and some bonding with our new roommate Matt, who was from Vancouver, we turned in for the evening to get some much needed rest.

Saturday April 21, 2007

We awoke early, most likely due to the change in time zones and began our day with a light bite to eat in the hostel. After eating our group split into various factions in order to maximize our free time that day and planned to meet up for supper later on that day. Some of us took the opportunity to reconnect with friends and acquaintances that lived in the United Kingdom. Others decided to explore various shopping opportunities including the market located in Covent Garden. The market was quite lovely with many open air stands that sold everything from printed artwork to tuxedo vests. We bought several items for friends and family back home that were one-of-a-kind.

Another destination we attended on Saturday was the London Zoo. The London Zoo is the world's oldest scientific zoo and was first opened in 1828. Some of the animals that we liked best were the monkeys, kangaroos, and hyenas. After a long day of sightseeing, shopping and visiting we met up for supper at an Indian Restaurant and had a relaxing evening in the hostel mingling with other guests from around the world before retiring for the evening.

Sunday, April 22, 2007

Sunday was spent enjoying the sights of London. We had a small breakfast in a little café in Piccadilly Circus and then set out to explore as much of London as possible. We began by walking from Piccadilly Circus to Buckingham Palace. After a photo session at the Palace we continued our walk until we found Hyde Park. We strolled through the park enjoying the beautiful weather and eventually found Princess Diana's Memorial. We took the lead of other Londoners and splashed around in the memorial enjoying the cold water on our feet in the hot sun.

From Hyde Park we wandered until we found a double-decker bus. Boarding the bus we took a double-decker audio-guided bus tour of London. During this bus tour we saw all the major highlights of London from Big Ben to the Financial District – since London is the financial capital of the world, to various monuments and statues!

For lunch we stopped at a Sushi bar and then visited St. Paul's Cathedral. During our adventures we even managed to see part of the London Marathon.

After a very full day of touring London we headed back to Covent Garden to enjoy some more shopping and the rich atmosphere of performance artists in the square. That evening we had dinner at Adam's Ribs just off Piccadilly Circus. The food was OK and we even managed to get some table service!

After supper we headed back to the hostel where we mingled with other guests for awhile, checked our email and then planned out how we would get to our meetings that week. Having already spent three days in London was a tremendous help as we were now somewhat familiar with the geography of the area. Had we not had the time to familiarize ourselves with the area, what was an already confusing city would have been nearly impossible to navigate. Satisfied with our travel plans we headed to bed ready for another week of meetings.

Monday, April 23, 2007

On Monday we were up early to head off to the Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA). Although the hostel we were staying at is very central, London is a very confusing city. We attempted to walk to the DCA but eventually realized we were somewhat lost and therefore caught the tube. However, because of the poorly labeled street signs we ended up spending about 15 minutes trying to figure out which way we were supposed to head once outside the tube station. Asking for directions can be difficult as the majority of people in London are not from London. Figuring out the directions on our own we made it to the DCA building ten minutes before our meeting. We suggest leaving very early for meetings to avoid being late or getting lost!

Once we were all signed in at the DCA, we began our day with Paul Docker from the Electoral Policy Division of the DCA. He gave us an overview of the Department's history and its current work on Electoral Modernizations. During this talk we learnt of all the troubles plaguing Britain's elections. Although they have tried to modernize the process there has been considerable fraud accompanying those modernizations.

Following that, we spoke with David Rowland who gave us a review of Party Funding in the UK. Next we spoke with Elspeth Rainbow and Amy Tait on Democratic Engagement. During this talk we got in a heavy conversation related to youth engagement. After our meetings we were taken up to the Minister's Office and given a tour. Here we had a chance to speak with one of the Minister's assistants. This assistant was not a political Ministerial Assistant (MA) but was more like a public servant. Partly due to the size of the British government, Minister's are

required to have an office in the Department. However, they also have offices within or around Westminster and one in their constituency. Speaking with him gave us a chance to see the differences in the structure of the British government compared to those in Canada. Following our tour of the Minister's Office we grabbed a quick lunch of sandwiches with some of the staff from the DCA. Our first meeting after lunch was with Rob Curtis. He's a Project Manager in charge of implementing the Modernization Strategy through specific projects such as online voting. Nancy Hay then gave us a review of Electoral Administration followed by Jo Burden explaining the Electoral Administration Bill and how this piece of legislation applies to what they do in the Electoral Policy Division. Our half-day spent with the Electoral Policy Division was fantastic and gave us a better understanding of the complexity and interconnectedness of government when dealing with such large issues like Electoral Policy.

After our time at the DCA, Jarita, Lucy, and Justine went to St. James Palace where they met with Lt. Col. Alexander Matheson the Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood. Kiley and Jon went to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to meet with Arik Dondi - the Head of the Sustainable Development Unit. Mr. Dondi gave Jon and Kiley an excellent briefing on the importance of sustainable development and the battle against climate change, explaining the UK Government's strategy for achieving results in these areas while demonstrating to them how monumental an undertaking this really is for the UK Government.

Following those meetings was more spare time to try and soak in more of London's sights. Jon and Kiley went to the Imperial War Museum, getting an opportunity to see one of the world class museums London has to offer. The museum was very interactive with such displays as a life size WWI trench that you can move through to get a feel of what trench warfare was truly like. Meanwhile Jarita, Lucy and Justine took in yet another double-decker audio-guide bus tour of London.

After three hours apart we regrouped at the hostel and went out for supper at a traditional English pub. At this point we all took the opportunity to sample one of the United Kingdom's most famous culinary dishes, fish and chips with peas. They were definitely tasty! When dinner was finished we enjoyed several pints of English beer and talked about our day. With our drinks finished we headed back to the hostel to prepare for the rest of our week so that a repeat of the morning's direction disaster could be avoided. With the following day mapped out we went to bed.

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

On Tuesday morning we slept in a little since meetings did not start until 10:30 a.m. Of course, when you are trying to organize five people, there is no such thing as sleeping in. After eating a small breakfast at a café in Piccadilly Circus we left for our meetings 45 minutes early because London was very difficult to navigate and we wanted to ensure we would have enough time to get to Westminster, where our first meeting of the day was located.

A thirty minute ride on the tube later we made it to the Palace of Westminster where we met with Lizzie Broadbent, secretary at the Home Office, who was the contact person who arranged all of the meetings at the Palace of Westminster that day.

We began with a tour of the parliament. This was complete with an explanation of terms such as "in the bag" which was a reference to the daily petitions that were placed in a bag each day. We also learned about the origins of the term "son of a gun" and "cross the line". A "son of a gun" is a young boy that was sold by his family to work for gunmen in the army. "Crossing

the line" was in reference to a line that was drawn in the chamber. In that time when it was common for MPs to carry swords, the line was a way to keep debates from getting violent.

The tour guide also walked us through the process for voting in parliament – he noted that it was a very sophisticated system of counting each individual as the walked through the "yes" or "no" doors.

There were two things that struck us about Palace of Westminster. The first is how truly exquisite it was. The detail of the architecture coupled with the significance of each room was impressive. The other thing that was noted was how the building was not large enough. The House of Commons was not nearly large enough to accommodate all of the MPs, and large majorities were not there when we attended question time.

With the tour of Westminster completed we went to our next scheduled meeting with a Clerk from the Public Bill Office - Alan Sandall. He reviewed the role of the Clerk in the House of Commons and briefed us on the procedures and practices in the House of Commons.

When our briefing was finished we went for lunch with Alan Sandall and Tracey Garratty who was the Private Secretary to the Clerk in the House of Commons in the Strangers Dining Room. The Stranger's Dining Room is so named since a stranger is anyone in the chamber who is not an MP or an officer performing official duties. According to an online article, this can range from the parliamentary staff who sits on the floor of the parliament, the official recorders of proceedings, to politicians from the other House. This lunch was particularly interesting for us because the full course meal we were served was with full waiter service and the opportunity we had to have an intimate discussion with people so intimately involved in parliamentary affairs.

Question Time, which followed lunch, was another interesting experience for us. When we left Saskatchewan we were in the midst of the Murdoch Carrier "scandal" and debate in the House was quite intense and the heckling was getting personal. Given that this is a potential election year, this has been the standard we are used to. When viewing Question Time however, we noticed that there was much more civility in the way the government and opposition members addressed each other. This was our impression despite the indication from others in London that this behavior was somehow childish.

From Question Time we went to a meeting with the David Beamish, a Reading Clerk and Clerk of the Overseas Office in the House of Lords. He gave us a review of the clerk's role in the House of Lords.



The day at the Palace of Westminster ended with a meeting with Scottish MP David Marshall and his wife Christine. They took us out onto the terrace overlooking the Thames River. It was a beautiful day and we had an amazing view. This meeting was excellent because Mr. Marshall was candid in his discussion with us and it gave us an opportunity to be introduced to Scottish political issues before we headed there. He told us of a district in Scotland, when he was first elected, that had no electricity and no plumbing in many

of the apartment complexes rented by the working poor. It was also interesting because his wife shared with us some of her personal experiences being married to a man who had been an MP for nearly the entire course of their children's lives.

Our day at the Palace of Westminster over we took the time to do a bit of sightseeing in the area around Westminster, taking photos of different things including the London Eye. After a bit of this we headed back to the hostel and changed into more relaxed clothing before heading to an outdoor restaurant patio in one of the squares near Piccadilly Circus. At this point Kiley left us to watch a performance of Les Miserables while the rest of us enjoyed a nice evening on the patio followed by some sampling of the various night life options around Piccadilly Circus.

By 11:00 p.m. we were all drained and ready for bed so we headed back to the hostel and crashed for the night.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

On Wednesday we headed to the Foreign office where we met with the Head of the Canada Section, Judith Denwood and a colleague. Here, we learned that there were three major issues that concerned Canada-United Kingdom relations. The first was Afghanistan because Canada is leading the mission and the UK is committed to Afghanistan indefinitely. The second was climate change. They wanted to work with Canada on climate change, but recognized that given Canada's size and the existence of resources like oil, that their record on climate change were going to be much different than ours. The third major issue, and one that came as a surprise to us, was the concern the United Kingdom had over the seal hunt in Canada. This was gaining significant attention from the public and they have received around 6,000 letters protesting the issue and pressuring the government to take action. Following this meeting the interns were taken on a tour of the Foreign Office building. This was the official building where dignitaries would be welcomed. It had grand staircases, an indoor courtyard, and a ballroom. We were also taken into the room where the Treaty of Locarno was signed in 1925.

Following the Foreign Office we met with the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. This meeting was of particular significance because, as interns, we have had a role in the parliamentary process. There are not a lot of individuals that have a firm understanding of the parliamentary process. This was a fact that was acknowledged in this meeting and it was stated that the association, at times, is like a professional development organization. There are very few career politicians and there is a high turnover rate of MLAs and MPs because they often have careers they want to return to. Given this, there is not a lot of knowledge of the parliamentary process being carried over each election year and so the CPA offers publications to create an interest in the institution in which MPs/MLAs work. This meeting was excellent because it involved the Secretary General Dr. William F Shija along with the other members of his Executive Secretariat. It was a fascinating meeting with Dr. Shija since he had been a MP and Cabinet Minister in his native Tanzania.

With our morning meetings over we split up into two groups of interns. Kiley and Jonathan went for lunch at a pub and then spent several hours shopping in the famous Harrod's Department Store. During their shopping excursions Kiley saw Dustin Hoffman! Sadly, Kiley and Jonathan had gone their own way leaving Kiley alone at the time so there is no real proof apart from a blurry picture of his back! But we believe her! Really, we do. Advice for next year's interns: If you spot a celebrity, be sure to approach them. Justine, Jarita, and Lucy went for lunch together and then spent several hours shopping on Regent Street, one of London's high class shopping districts.

Finished with our shopping we reconvened for our final meeting in London at the Scotland Office in Dover House. At the Scotland office we met with the Head of the Scotland Office – Dr. James Wildgoose and the Head of Constitutional Policy – Glenn Preston. At this meeting we discussed the origins of devolution and the struggle for Scotland's independence from the UK. In this meeting we noticed that the issues that defined the relationship between Scotland and the UK were very similar to those that defined the relationship between Canada and Québec. For example, it was common to hear that those in England were uncomfortable with the fact that Scotland receives more money per capita than anywhere else in the UK. A noteworthy difference between the two however, is the fact that the UK government actually gives Scotland a block grant each year. This money is "no strings attached" and Scotland is free to use this money in whatever manner it sees fit. This differs significantly from the Canadian system, where funding is often allocated, but it is done so to serve at least some of the federal government's interests.

Following this meeting we returned to the hostel to collect our luggage and head to the airport. We were flying to Scotland that evening. The trip to the airport however was a slightly stressful one. When we boarded the tube, we were doing so at a peak time during the day when it was packed. We had to split up to ensure that each of us, with our monstrous luggage, would be able to board. We made it to Heathrow without losing any of the interns or our luggage and checked in for our flight to Scotland. With time to spare we ate supper in the airport and waited for our flight to Edinburgh.

The flight to Edinburgh went by quickly and soon we were in a cab on our way from the airport to the hostel. Arriving at the hostel we were quickly checked in and went straight to our room. After our experience in London, where we had a six person room, walking into a crowded sixteen person room was a new experience. Unpacking quietly we were soon in bed sound asleep after another long but exciting day.

Thursday April 26, 2007

Our first day in Scotland was great! We woke up early and had breakfast in the Hostel. It was a cheap yet tasty breakfast. We headed toward the Office of the Lord Advocate, which was within close walking distance. We arrived early and decided we would check out a local coffee shop. Once we all had our caffeine fix, we headed back to the office to meet with the Lord Advocate of Scotland, Elish Angiolini. She was an amazing woman who was very candid about her position and the criticisms she has received. She told very inspiring stories of how hard work, dedication and tough skin have allowed her to get to her position. The most amazing part of the meeting was learning that she was the first person appointed to the position in four hundred years and the first woman to ever hold the position. Our meeting went on a little longer than scheduled so we had to rush to our next appointment.

We speed walked over to the Edinburgh Castle for a guided tour, arranged by Ms. Angiolini. It was beautiful. Our private guide was great; he shared lots of information with us about the history of the Scottish royal family and the castle. One very random moment occurred when Jonathan bumped into a friend from Melfort, Saskatchewan in the castle. Neither of them knew the other would be in Edinburgh so it was quite a surprise.

Once we were done at the Edinburgh Castle, we walked to Holyrood – the Scottish Parliament for a guided tour. Holyrood was about a 35 minute walk away so we had to hustle. Once we arrived we went through security and joined a tour group. Holyrood is a very interesting parliament. The house is designed after the United Nations model where all the members sit in a semi circle rather than the traditional adversarial opposition facing government

seating plan. The building was also so intricately designed. It is no wonder that it came in grossly over budget.

Once our tour wrapped up we headed to a small pub for lunch. After we had dined we caught a cab and drove across Edinburgh to the Scottish Executive. At the Scottish Executive we met with Ian Donnelson, the Head of International Strategy and Co-ordination Unit and Beryl Gibb, a member of the UK Liaison Team. We discussed the Scottish devolved Parliament and the issues surrounding England not having its own devolved parliament in light of the Scottish, Welsh and Irish Parliaments. It was very interesting since our conversation with the Scotland Office officials had been very similar except this time we were discussing the issues from a Scotland based perspective rather than a United Kingdom based perspective.

We caught a bus back to the hostel, changed our clothes and headed down the Royal Mile to do some sightseeing and shopping for souvenirs. When we tired of this we went to a Scottish pub for supper. We were back at the hostel by 9:00 p.m. and mingled with our fellow guests for an hour. We were in bed by 10:00 p.m. because we were so exhausted.

Friday, April 27, 2007

On our second day in Scotland, we spent the day enjoying the sights of Edinburgh. Jarita, Lucy and Justine started the day off with a traditional English breakfast in a little café on the Royal Mile. After breakfast Jarita, Lucy, and Justine – joined by Kiley, spent the day walking along the Royal Mile, which is the main street in Edinburgh. The street is one of the oldest streets in Scotland and is laced with the history of the city. It also served as a good location to pick up souvenirs from the tacky to the tasteful.

The girls finished off their morning of tourist adventures by lunching in a pub called The World's End, which is located at the end of the Royal Mile. Although it serves traditional pub food it was slightly nicer than most places and for a reasonable price.

After eating lunch the girls continued shopping on the Royal Mile branching off to different areas of Edinburgh as they browsed through the different stores. Dinner was had at yet another pub on the Royal Mile. Pubs in Scotland are much cheaper and the food is tastier than pubs in London. There seems to be more traditional-type pubs remaining in Scotland than in England.

While the girls enjoyed shopping and walking the Royal Mile Jonathan did a walking tour of Edinburgh on his own. This took him from one end of the Royal Mile to the other and then through most of Old Edinburgh. Jonathan had a fantastic lunch at a little restaurant that only served Scottish food made with organic Scottish ingredients.

With his lunch finished Jonathan continued wandering around Edinburgh. Along the way Jonathan found a great art gallery, the Red Door Art Gallery. The Red Door specialized in selling locally produced art from Edinburgh and the rest of Scotland. From the art gallery Jonathan continued his journey around Edinburgh by foot only stopping for a quick supper in a pub until he met up with the rest of the interns and they set out by taxi for the airport together.

Once back at Edinburgh Turnhouse Airport we checked in for our flight back to London. With time to kill before the flight we sat around comparing Edinburgh and London, stating our likes and dislikes for each of the cities and why.

The flight from Edinburgh to London was quick and we found ourselves once again back in Heathrow International Airport. Jonathan, Kiley, and Lucy picked up their luggage from the luggage storage facility while Jarita and Justine decided to collect theirs in the morning. From the airport we took the airport shuttle bus to our hotel.

The Park Inn Heathrow was a short 10 minute ride from Heathrow and we were soon checked into the hotel. The hotel, already very nice, seemed like a palace to us after our accommodations of the last two weeks. Getting to our rooms we all went to bed fairly early as we were exhausted after nearly two weeks spent on our Comparative Study Tour.

Saturday, April 28, 2007 – Return Flight from London to Edmonton to Regina!

Extremely tired after two weeks of meetings, flights, and sightseeing we awoke after sleeping for a bit and began to pack for our Trans-Atlantic flight home from London to Regina. With some work everyone managed to get their bags packed with hopes of being underweight and we went to eat a quick breakfast in the hotel restaurant. With breakfast over we organized some cabs and went back to the airport.

Once at Heathrow International Airport we checked in for our flight through the self check-in machines. Some excitement was created by the fact that Justine and Jarita had to get their luggage from the stored luggage facility located in a different terminal and were thus separated from the group. After anxiously awaiting their return Lucy, Kiley, and Jonathan began the trek through security. Luckily Jarita and Justine were able to get checked in and through security in record time and we all boarded our flights successfully.

The flight from London to Edmonton was over eight hours long. Most of the interns spent the time sleeping or watching the in-flight movies.

We arrived in Edmonton National Airport and breezed through security happy to return to Canadian soil and a step closer to Regina. We ate lunch as we were all famished and then killed time in the airport by reading Canadian newspapers, getting caught up on what had happened in Canada while we were gone. After what seemed like forever we boarded our last flight from Edmonton to Regina.

A short hour and ten minutes later we touched down in Regina, sad that our Comparative Study Tour was over but happy to be back home at last. After collecting our bags we said goodbye at the airport and took separate cabs home. With that the Comparative Study Tour was over.

